555 Finnish society thus presents a rare, uniform picture, and mobility within the society is greater than in any other European country. Many of the most prominent persons in public life have risen from "lowly cottages," and perhaps as many with favorable family connections have suck into oblivion. Birth, wealth and education are today not a sure guarantee [574] for success. The internal controversies in Finnish society are not economic, but political, with farmers, workers and intellectuals representing different interests; party connections may place a person in a position for which he lacks the necessary qualifications.

575 It is no wonder tha societies and youth organ- ● 883 izations holding differing political views are among the most prominent in the country.

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Those with extreme right-wing sympathies, like the powerful Civil Guard and the Students' Karelian League, were abolished after the last war, and then communist organizations, hitherto prohibited, came into legal existence. The most important, as far as number of members is concerned, are certain societies with cultural and social aims. The most important youth movements, counting altogether around fifty per cent of the Finnish youth as their members, were in 1949 as follows:

	Membership
Suomen Pyhäkouluyhdistys [League of the Sunday Schools]	205,000
Finlands Svenska Ungdomsunion [Union of Swedish-speaking Youth in Finland]	130,000
Suomen Opettajain Raittiusliitto [Temperance Union of Finnish Teachers]	110,023

575 Työväen Urheiluliitto nuorisojaosto
●883 [Youth Department of the Workers' Sports Society] 105,000

Suomen Nuorison Liitto
[Finnish Youth League] 75,000

Suomen Voimistelu- ja Urheiluliitto
[Society of Sports and Gymnastics in Finland]
Youth departments:
boys 50,000
girls 15,000

Maatalouskerholiitto
[League of Agricultural Clubs] 55,000

Svenska Finland Idrottsförbund
[Sports Society of Swedish Finland] 45,000

Partioliitto
[Scout Union]
boys 21,000
girls 15,500

Maaseudun Nuorten Liitto
[Union of Rural Youth] 34,000

Poikien Keskus
[Boys' Center] 34,000

Sosialidemokraattinen Työläisnuorisoliitto
[Union of the Social Democratic Youth] 31,500

575 Finlands Svenska Ungdomsförbund
883 [League of the Swedish-Speaking Youth in Finland] 30,000

Kokoomuksen Nuorten Liitto
[Youth League of the Coalition Party] 28,000

Suomen Nuorten Kristillinen Liitto
[Christian Society of the Finnish Youth (i.e. YMCA and YWCA)] 26,000

Suomen Teiniliitto
[League of the Secondary School Students] 20,000

Nuoret Kotkat
[Young Eagles (communist)] 17,000

Of special interest is the Finnish Youth League which was established in 1881 to improve education and to awaken a national interest among rural youth. Now the League has 1,021 branches all over the country. The League and its subdivisions organize a varied number of activities, among which study circles,

575 acting clubs, folkdancing and gymnastics, choirs
● 983 and orchestras are especially to be mentioned.

476 Co-operative movements have a very im-
241 portant place in Finnish society. According to ancient custom, the country people, after finishing the day's work in their own fields, join together to help those who are hampered by sickness or other debilitation to gather their grain or build their barns. Moreover, the farmers form co-operative units for buying machinery, for organizing the marketing of their products, etc. Some of these have dev-
[474] eloped into extremely large enterprises. In 1949 there were 5.066 co-operative units active within the farming population, with 1,020,000 members. The central organization for agricultural co-operatives is Pellervo-Seura, established in 1899.

648 Bosheviks as well. Finland, however, did not participate in the struggle between the White and the Red armies in Russia, but numerous Finnish volunteers, mostly high school and university students, took part in the Estonian War of Independence and in the uprising of the Karelians in the following year. Peace between Finland and Russia was made in 1920 in Tartu. The boundaries of Finland were to be the same as those of the Grand Duchy of Finland under Russian rule, and, in addition, an area at the Arctic Ocean, the district of Petsamo, was acquired. The Russians promised to give East Karelia an autonomous status, and several Finnish Communists moved over and became prominent in the administration of this area.

648 Among the univerisity students the memory of
883 the Karlian struggle was kept alive, and the most

648 883 radical-minded established the Academic Karelia League, which was active until World War II advocating official Finnish intervention in behalf of the Karelians and the annexation of this area to Finland. The ideals of the League, however, were commonly recognized as youthful fanaticism, and accordingly they had very little influence on general opinion, and none whatsoever on Finnish foreign policy.

648 In 1920 Finland became a member of the League of Nations, which very soon had to decide the dispute between Finland and Sweden concerning the ownership of the Åland Islands. During the Finnish War of Independence these islands had been occupied by Swedish troops, and the population, almost entirely Swedish-speaking, had expressed a wish to be connected with Sweden. The League of Nations, however, decided